

PUBLIC WORKS

Pipeline

Your Drinking Water Is Certified Safe

This issue of *Public Works Pipeline* contains the City's annual water quality report, which includes complete information on the monitoring done on Edina's drinking water last year. Residents in Edina's Morningside Neighborhood who receive their water from the City of Minneapolis will find information detailing the quality of Minneapolis' water on pages 10-12.

In the report, you will find a detailed account of Edina's water quality, including test results on all contaminants deemed by the Minnesota Department of Health to pose a health risk.

Our goal is to provide you with water that surpasses both state and federal requirements for safety and quality. This year's report shows that our water surpasses regulatory standards on all counts.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Edina Public Works at 952-826-0312.



2014 Water Report For the Year 2013

Turf Management Affects
Water Quality
See Page 3 for details

Tips To Avoid Being The Victim Of A Scam

If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, the Minnesota Department of Health recommends the following:

- Make sure the treatment system/device you are considering is certified to achieve the advertised results.
- Make sure the treatment system/device actually addresses whatever issue you are concerned about – no one system will treat all water quality problems.
- Work with a reputable water treatment company.
- Verify that the installation is done by a licensed plumber or licensed water conditioning contractor (as required by state law).
- Compare water treatment systems and prices.
- If you are contacted by a company to test your water and they say they are working with the City of Edina or a state agency, ask for their contact person at the City or state.
- Make sure you understand how to properly use and maintain the system; otherwise, it may not work properly and, in some cases, even make your water quality worse. Be wary of companies claiming their system is maintenance-free.
- Be wary of any in-home “water quality tests” that the salesperson claims indicate the presence of contamination. The results may simply indicate the presence of naturally occurring minerals in the water.
- Beware of any “one-time only” offer of a water treatment system at a “greatly reduced price.” Sometimes, systems are sold at inflated prices.

Filtering Out Water Treatment Scams

Every person has the right to decide what is best for themselves and their family. You may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants, chlorine and other chemicals in your water. However, it is important you are made aware that false claims, deceptive sales pitches or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies.

Consumers should be aware of tactics and claims used to pressure them into buying water treatment systems that aren’t certified or recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

One of the best ways to decide on a system is to make sure that it is certified by an organization such as NSF International, the Water Quality Association or Underwriters Laboratories.

Unfortunately, some purveyors of water treatment systems use fraudulent sales tactics. In many of those cases, a scam will take the form of something left on the door of a home encouraging the owner to take action. It might be a letter or a plastic bottle with instructions to fill it up and leave it for the “water company” to test. Some victims think that the water company is the City. More than likely, the company will “test” the water and come back and tell the resident something needs to be done to ensure the quality of their water, which isn’t the case.

City of Edina Utility Supervisor Gary Wells has dealt with situations such as these.

“If we’re lucky, people will call us before they do anything,” said Wells in regard to the scams.

According to Wells, the City’s water is tested daily and meets all the requirements set by the State of Minnesota and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Although Wells has dealt with occasional reports of scams for the past couple years, he says that calls are very minimal and that most people are able to recognize them for what they are.

Wells does not recommend residents buy any water treatment system other than a water softener because they have the potential to strip their water supply of naturally occurring minerals, and may result in erosion of pipes.

It is also important to know how to correctly use and maintain your system. If it does not work properly, it could run the risk of worsening your water quality. Some companies may claim their systems are “maintenance free,” but beware.

Wells encourages people to call the City if they are targeted by water treatment scams, but also wants people to know that the City’s utility jurisdiction stops at the curb.

“If they let us know, we can help educate our customers and alert the proper agencies if needed,” said Wells.

Anyone who feels they have been provided false information regarding questionable sales tactics should contact the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office Consumer Complaints Division at 651-296-3353 or visit www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Complaint.asp

For more information on Edina’s Public Works Department or its Utilities Division, visit www.EdinaMN.gov/PublicWorks.

Public Works Profile: Matt Poythress

By Michael McGivern

As our winter snow melts into gutters and summer's warmth envelopes the state, treatment is an imperative factor in keeping water clean year-round.

For the last five years, Matt Poythress has worked in the Public Works Department's Utilities Division as a Public Service Worker.

"I work on water meters and assist at water treatment plants as we get fired up for the summer," said Poythress.

Edina has treatment plants in the lower level of the parking ramp in the Grandview area, near the Edina Community Center and at Fred Richards Executive Golf Course.

All well water is treated with fluoride, chlorine and polyphosphates. Poythress and his co-workers oversee that treatment to clean Edina's water.

The plants and well houses work by passing water through filters. After this preliminary treatment, dissolved substances and suspended particles still remain. The water enters a gravity filtration tank where it is held. What remains in the water after these physical methods of treatment are dissolved pollutants and very small particles that remain floating in suspension.

The method of removing dissolved organic and inorganic compounds in water mimics the natural process by which water is purified gradually over time. As the treatment progresses, the bacteria themselves are consumed by other organisms, leaving relatively cleaner water. After secondary treatment, the water must enter another gravity filtration tank where any solids that might have entered the water are filtered out.

Once the water has been treated, it is distributed through a system of 200 miles of water main, four water towers and a



Photo by Michael Braun

Matt Poythress is a Public Service Worker in the Utilities Division of the Public Works Department.

ground reservoir to supply homes and businesses with clean, safe drinking water.

When not working on water treatment, Matt is busy auditing home water consumption meters for the purpose of billing. He inspects meters and utility boxes to confirm that they are in good condition and checks for signs of tampering or fraud.

For more information, visit www.EdinaMN.gov, keyword search: utility.

Lawn Care Affects Water Quality

Keeping our wetlands, lakes and water supply clean and healthy is in everyone's best interest. Minimizing pollutants is a vital part of this goal.

Being a good steward of the environment can sometimes seem like a daunting task, but when it comes to lawn care, there are six simple adjustments you can make to your routine that will have profound impacts on the health of our ecosystem.

They are:

- Test your soil. Find out what nutrients you may or may not need to add for a healthy lawn.
- Do not use phosphorus fertilizer. The "P" on the NPK rating on a bag of fertilizer indicates the amount of phosphorus, so be sure to choose fertilizer with a "P" rating of "0."
- Apply fertilizer at the correct rate. More is not better. Be sure your spreader is set correctly.
- Keep fertilizer, grass clippings and leaves off driveways and streets. When these things are left on hard surfaces, they wash off into storm drains and cause "green" lakes.
- Mow grass to a height of two or three inches. Overseed in the spring and fall. Aerate and dethatch in the fall. A healthy lawn invites fewer weeds and needs less chemical maintenance.
- Grass clippings left on the lawn act as a fertilizer in the summer. A healthy lawn needs less chemical maintenance.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q:** What is the hardness of Edina water, and what level of hardness should I set my water softener to?
- A:** Edina water has approximately 17 grains of hardness. The Utility Division of the Public Works Department recommends setting your softener to obtain 3 to 4 grains of hardness.
- Q:** What other important information should I know about Edina's water?
- A:** Edina water has less than 1 part per million of iron. The pH level of Edina water is 7.6. Edina maintains fluoride at about 1 part per million.
- Q:** Sometimes my water smells like bleach. Why? Is that harmful? What can I do to rid the water of that smell?
- A:** The City uses recommended amounts of chlorine to remove microorganisms from the water. Edina maintains its chlorine level between 1 and 1.5 parts per million. We test the water every day to make sure the levels are within national regulation guidelines. This level of chlorine is not harmful, but some people are sensitive to its odor. An easy solution is to keep a container of water stored in your refrigerator. The chlorine gas smell dissipates very quickly, leaving no odor.
- Q:** I used to get a postcard telling me when you're flushing the hydrants, but I don't get it anymore. How am I going to know when you are flushing?
- A:** The costs of mass mailings can be high. To save money, information is published in the *Edina Sun-Current* and *About Town*, on Edina Channels 16 and 813, and online at www.EdinaMN.gov.
- Q:** How long does it take after flushing hydrants for my water to run clear?
- A:** Generally, after flushing, it takes two to six hours for the iron particles, which are heavier than water, to settle out of the water. It may help to turn your cold water on medium pressure in your laundry tub until the water clears up. Since the Utilities Department flushes from 7 a.m. to 2:30 or 3 p.m., it is a good idea to wait until early evening to do laundry. Always run a little water in your laundry tub first to make sure the water is running clear.
- Q:** How large of an area is affected by flushing a hydrant? Why can't you be more specific about when you'll be on my block?
- A:** Usually when a hydrant is opened, only the area in a block radius is affected. Often, even though the City flushes a hydrant right outside your home, you won't have any discolored water. Because the water system is a single-pressure zone (all connected), it is possible to cause red water problems in ANY area of the city.
- Q:** Why do you flush all the hydrants on my street? Wouldn't one or two suffice?
- A:** We try to operate every hydrant in the City once a year to see if there are any maintenance-related issues that may need attention.
- Q:** I had water shooting up out of my lower-level toilets and a sewer gas smell. What happened? Who's going to clean it up?
- A:** The City's Utilities Division cleans sewer main lines using high-pressure water. While conducting this activity, our machine can create positive and negative pressures in the sewer line. These pressures are normally released through the manholes and roof vents from the house's sewer line. If the house's vent line is obstructed, the pressures will take the path of least resistance. This path can be through your floor drain or toilet. Air is the only thing that gets released. However, it will move any standing water in its path and release sewer gas into your home.

This is not a common occurrence, but does occasionally happen. Putting water in all of the drains in your house (especially lower-level floor drains) will stop the further release of sewer odor into your home. Clean-up is typically minor and is left to the home owner. Keeping your sewer and vent line clean will help prevent this from happening and minimize the chances of a backup caused from a blockage. After cleaning your sewer line, please call the City's Utilities Division so staff can make sure the debris from your line won't block the main sewer line.

– Compiled by Susan Waack

Collaboration Streamlines Utility Replacement

By Jordan Gilgenbach

What takes only a few months of construction can sometimes take five years to plan. Part of that planning is coordinated across several departments, using the skills and expertise of staff from the City's Engineering and Public Works departments.

About a year or two before a planned street reconstruction begins, crews from Edina's Public Works Department inspect the infrastructure below the pavement. They use cameras and other equipment to inspect water mains, sanitary sewers and storm sewers.

"In some areas, the underground infrastructure might be about 60 years old," said Dave Goergen, Public Works Coordinator. He noted underground infrastructure lasts about 50 to 80 years. Since many of Edina's older roads were constructed in the 1950s and '60s, they are nearing the end of their useful lives.

The data about the infrastructure is given to the Engineering staff, which runs it through a formula and makes a recommendation on whether to repair or replace the infrastructure. The quality of the street pavement and the underground utilities help prioritize projects.

"In many cases, the infrastructure will be replaced, but, where it can be, it is repaired," said Goergen. "This can help save money on the project."



Photo by Aaron Kuznia

Crews replace a storm sewer as part of the Strachauer Park B neighborhood street reconstruction.

"We want to provide residents with the best service possible," said Engineering Director Chad Millner. "We don't want to sacrifice quality to save a little. If a [water main] break happens after a street reconstruction, it could be more costly to dig up the new road, make the fix and then fix the road again. It's much more efficient to get it done in one swoop."

Efficiency is what this cooperation is about. Over the last few years, staff has improved interdepartmental communication, so each department knows the status of the projects. Additionally, it brings new ideas.

"We're all on the same team," Goergen said. "With this partnership brings two different perspectives for the betterment of everyone."

For more information about Edina's street reconstructions, visit www.EdinaMN.gov/Engineering.

2014 Street Projects

- **Birchcrest B:** Clover Ridge; Rolf Avenue; 62nd Street and portions of 60th Street, Birchcrest Drive, Normandale Road, Porter Lane, Tingdale Avenue, Valley View Road and Wilryan Avenue will be reconstructed.
- **Bredesen Park D:** Aspen Road, Tamarac Lane, Tamarac Avenue and Walnut Drive will be reconstructed.
- **Countryside F:** Hawkes Drive, Hawkes Terrace and Warden Avenue will be reconstructed.
- **France Avenue:** France Avenue at 66th, 70th and 76th streets will be improved for pedestrians and bicyclists. Missing sidewalk connections on the east side of France Avenue will also be added.
- **Hazelton Road:** The roadway between France Avenue and the Edina Promenade will be reconstructed and a roundabout added.
- **Morningside B:** Alden Drive, Eton Place, Scott Terrace and portions of Morningside Road and 42nd Street will be reconstructed.
- **Strachauer Park B:** A portion of 62nd Street, Abbott Avenue, York Avenue and Zenith Avenue will be reconstructed.
- **Todd Park F:** Brooke, Coolidge and Mackey avenues will be reconstructed as part of a St. Louis Park street reconstruction project.

2013 **City of Edina** Drinking Water Report

The City of Edina is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013.

The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The City of Edina provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 17 wells ranging from 381 to 1,080 feet deep that draw water from the Mount Simon, Jordan and Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifers.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call **651-201-4700** or **1-800-818-9318** (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at **www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa**.

Call **952-826-0375** if you have questions about the City of Edina's drinking water or would like information about

opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled in 2013. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred.)

Key to Abbreviations:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level: This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l: PicoCuries per liter: a measure of radioactivity.

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$).

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2013)	Average/Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15.4	3.5-8.3	8.3	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.135-.169	.17	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	1.3-1.7	1.7	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.8-1.2	1	The State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	nd-12.4	9	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	12.1-42.2	33.15	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.63	.38	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	nd-.28	.28	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	nd-7	6.47	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	nd-.17	.17	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.5-.7	.61	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Lowest and Highest Monthly Average.

*****Highest Quarterly Average.



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.16	1 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	2.4	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Edina is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to

two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, **800-426-4791**, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling **651-201-4700** or **1-800-818-9318** during normal business hours.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. The table above shows the unregulated contaminants that were detected.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Average Edina Water Chemistry

Hardness = 17 grains per gallon

Iron = less than 1 part per million

PH = 7.6

Fluoride = 0.9 to 1.1 parts per million

Chlorine = 1 to 1.2 parts per million

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Source of Water

The City of Minneapolis provides drinking water to its residents from a surface water source: surface water drawn from the Mississippi River.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call **651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318** (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call **612-661-4949** if you have questions about the City of Minneapolis drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2013. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure clarity in drinking water.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level: This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$).

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2012)	Average/Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.9-.98	.97	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	nd-44.8	33.38	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	N/A	.26	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	9.1-57.7	39.13	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	**	***	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT			Soil runoff.

**Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting the Turbidity Limits.

***Highest Single Measurement.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2.9-3.4	3.28	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.

*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant	Unit	% Removal Requirement	% Removal Achieved	# of Quarters out of Compliance	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon	% Removed	25-30%	46.4-60.2%	0	Naturally present in the environment.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.07	0 out of 50	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	3.2	1 out of 50	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Minneapolis is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, **800-426-4791**, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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City's Locating Truck 'Marks' Before You Make a Mark

By Lauryn Grimes

We've all heard the plea 'Call before you dig,' but what happens after the call is made? Who paints the colorful markings we see around construction sites? Whether you're adding a fountain to your backyard landscaping or building a new home, you will likely see the Public Works Department's locating truck at some point or another.

The locating truck is the vehicle that carries the operator and equipment needed to locate and mark aspects related to most construction projects, big or small.

The process of locating begins when a request is sent to Gopher State One Call by a homeowner, the City, private contractors and large companies. From there, various utilities are dispatched to mark their underground infrastructure so that construction crews do not disturb them. The Public Works Department is responsible for marking City-owned public infrastructure such as fiber optic, electrical, water, sanitary and storm sewer. Private utilities are marked independently.

Edina's Public Works Department uses an online ticketing manager, KorTerra – a corporate partner of Gopher State One – to distribute requests to Bart Voth, who then completes the markings. Voth is part of the Public Works Department's Utilities Division and the main operator of the truck and locating equipment.

"The truck itself is not particularly exciting," said Dave Goergen, Public Works Coordinator. "It's the mapping and electronic work order process that deserves the attention."

Utilities Supervisor, Gary Wells, noted that locating is particularly important because of the potentially dangerous situations it prevents. "It is a safety issue for us, workers, citizens of the city and contractors in the area," he explained.

"Everything has different levels of potential impact on people, property, infrastructure, as well as complicating a



Photo by Michael Braun

Utility Operator Bart Voth with the Public Works Department's locating truck and equipment.

dig site," said Goergen. "Gas and power have a more immediate explosive factor, but sanitary and water, although not as instantaneous, do have potential for serious risks."

On average, the Public Works Department fills about 9,000 requests per year. From May until October – the busiest months of the year for such requests – Voth completes more than 100 sets of markings per day.

To send a locating request, call 651-454-0002 or visit www.gopherstateonecall.org.